

C00017765

PROJECT MERRIMAC

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Identification: Project Merrimac. Providing timely advance notice of impending demonstrations in the Washington, D. C., area.

Background: At the time, it was believed that in order to protect our assets and installations on a long-range basis, we needed to develop advance notice of impending demonstrations in the Washington, D. C., area.

Approval: The file contains an undated memorandum from the Deputy Director of Security (IOS) to the Director of Security requesting \$2,000 to defray expenses of Project Merrimac for a period of approximately 45 days. Although the approved line was not signed by Mr. Howard J. Osborn, a date of 7 April 1967 was inserted. The file does not reflect any coordination with official organizations outside the Agency; it does indicate that at least some of the reports resulting from the operation were passed to the Fairfax Police, Washington, D. C., Police, FBI, and the Secret Service.

Responsibility: The Office of Security had the responsibility for carrying out the operation. The actual operation was conducted by [REDACTED]

The Operation: The operation commenced during February 1967 and last reports, in the file, resulting from the operation are dated December 1968. The operation involved using a small number (ten as of October 1967) of multi-racial covert assets of [REDACTED] to monitor various protest groups in the Washington, D. C., area which were considered to be potential sources of demonstrations against the Agency. This monitoring had as its purpose the gathering of information relating only to demonstrations, pickets, protests or marches which might pose a danger to CIA assets and installations. Monitoring was accomplished by infiltrating the organizations, attending their meetings (walk-ins), mixing with their street demonstrators, and taking pictures. The following organizations were so covered during the period February 1967 to December 1968:

Washington Peace Center  
Women's Strike for Peace  
Students Non-Violent Coordinating Committee  
Congress of Racial Equality  
Washington Ethical Society  
Spring Mobilization Committee  
National Mobilizations Committee  
CBW Mid-Atlantic Committee on Ft. Detrich  
Black United Front  
Resurrection City  
Malcolm X Day Meeting of 19 May 1968

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Cover: No cover was used in the actual implementation of the operation. However, the operation was run by the Office of Security.

Results: The operation resulted in a series of reports concerning the activities of the organizations listed above. Generally, these reports listed the people involved and summarized the remarks/speeches of the membership. The reports were prepared in blind memorandum form and routed through Chief, Special Activities Division, OS; Deputy Director of Security (IOS); and the Deputy Director and Director of Security. Selected reports were passed to the Fairfax Police Department, D. C. Police Department, FBI, and Secret Service.

Termination: The files do not indicate any reports after December 1968. The files do not contain any formal notification of termination.

Those Witting: Outside of those involved or witting in the chain of command and directly involved, the files do not reflect who else knew of the operation.

Files: The files are maintained in the office of the Deputy Director of Security (PSI).

Comments: In view of the violent nature of the demonstrators, their organizational capability, and the fact that the Agency was identified with the Viet Nam effort, it was apparently felt that in order to protect our installations and other assets it would be prudent to become aware of the intentions of certain organizations so that necessary precautions could be taken. The file indicates that no attempts were to be taken, nor in fact were taken, to influence the decisions or activities of the protesters.